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Photo by Greg Gancarz | The Prospectus

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Center for Academic Success celebrates 10-year anniversary

Greg Gancarz
Staff Writer

The Center for Academic Success, located in room D120, celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, having officially opened in the fall of 2006.

CAS offers a wide variety of tutoring and instruction. It gives students access to both student and faculty tutors that can help with subjects such as writing composition, chemistry, mathematics, and more. Students can also make use of private study rooms and numerous computers with Internet access.

CAS is free for all Parkland students, as long as they are currently enrolled in classes. A login at the main entrance is required to gain access. Many of the faculty tutors have been helping students at CAS

since its founding, and some even before it was located in room D120.

Omar Adawi, one of the CAS heads, has been tutoring at Parkland since 1993, when the center was little more than a peer tutoring organization in a small room in the C-wing. It took two location changes before the CAS, then known as the "Cooperative Learning Center," finally wound up in D120 in 2002. Four years later Adawi and other staff formed a task force that added additional tutoring departments and officially founded CAS.

"[It's] a common mistake for students to wait too long before they seek help," Adawi says, recommending that students come down as soon as possible.

According to Adawi, CAS is an excellent place for students to get help maintaining good

grades and not just a place to find help when struggling. He says it is an all-around "one-stop shop" for students' learning needs.

According to Sue Jones, another CAS veteran and the current head of the math lab, student success stories are one of the big things she takes away from her work in the center.

"Students really should come on in. We'll adapt to what they need. It's painless," she said.

"The need for this kind of place is so massive, I'm not at all surprised it's grown as big as it has," she says.

In addition to numerous new computer programs and tools added in recent years, CAS also employs around 20 peer tutors year-round, according to Tracey Hickox, the CAS director.

According to Hickox, the center is an efficient

place for students to study or get their homework done because "if they need help, they can get it right away."

Often times, those offering tutoring or general assistance are student workers like Ashley Bumpus, who has been a CAS employee since the fall semester of 2014. Bumpus says it's a great place for students to be, whether you're getting tutored or are the one doing the tutoring.

"I see familiar faces all the time and a lot of students are in the same boat I was, so I can relate to them and help them out," Bumpus says.

Alan Castellon, who's been a CAS tutor for over three semesters, says the center is a big help, but the real key to student success is to not procrastinate.

"We help students grasp the lessons

from class so we're sort of like the secondary line of defense. It should be important for students to make it to class and try and get the best understanding they can," Castellon says.

When even the tutors get stumped, most said they give a shout out to "The King of the Sciences" Adawi, who they say is always there with the right answer.

For those interested in a tutoring position, Bassel Abu Jabal, a new CAS tutor, strongly recommends taking advantage if a position is offered.

"It's great for résumés and it's a good review for yourself for material that you wouldn't normally remember. I'm really excited to start working here," Jabal states.

Getting a tutoring position is not an easy task, however. Student

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Student theatre production "Kazam!" opens Feb. 9

EvyJo Compton
Staff Writer

"Kazam!," a musical mystery production written by Kerry Bean, a communications professor at Parkland, and put on by students premieres Feb. 9 at Parkland's theatre.

"Kazam!" was commissioned by the Parkland Theatre to fit the Second Stage space and for the annual Student Production. In addition,

it ties in with Parkland's anniversary," Bean said. "I don't usually script it out. I usually sit down at a computer and start typing."

The play is a twist on the old style of melodramas, with neither the actors nor the audience knowing who the murderer is. With many plot twists and layered comedy, the story unfolds itself until the final moments when the murderer is finally revealed.

"As the audience, you get introduced to all the possible characters... and then...the show starts to go on its journey," he said. "I try to write these shows so that, yes, you know who the victim is, but when you get to the end, the culprit could still be almost any of the other characters. Keeping that in mind, I sometimes have to employ some pretty wild plot devices: 'I could have sworn that

character had already been blown up or eaten by a shark."

"Kazam!" is set in the not so distant past, as part of Parkland's 50th anniversary. Bean says this creates unique struggles for the characters.

"Why can't they use their cellphones? Well, it's 1967," he said. "It's the way the world was like [in] Austin Powers when he travels to get his mojo back."

Bean has also taken a

twist to the way the play is performed.

"During intermission, we ask the audience to fill out a 'Who Done It' card which they use to guess the murderer," he said. "We are always asking... the actors to step in and out of character. We've even incorporated the stage crew into the play."


Bean notes the actual production of the play is being done by many of the students and staff of the Theatre

Department. As a student production, it is directed by theatre major Tyler Cook. In addition, all the technical aspects of the show are being designed and run by students.

"In many respects, the whole theater department is involved in this. I wrote "Kazam!" but Tyler Cook gets creative independence. It's his show, too. And Tyler Cook has many

SEE KAZAM! PAGE 3

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Fact or Fiction

The Galapagos giant tortoise is the longest-living vertebrate in existence with some living to over 150-years-old.

Answer on page 3

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EDUCATION

Parkland Homework Club offers volunteer opportunity for students

David Saveanu
Staff Writer

Parkland’s Homework Club gives Parkland students the opportunity to volunteer as mentors and tutors to local kids at Garden Hills Elementary School down the road.

The program uses student volunteers to tackle the school’s problem with literacy. It gives the elementary school students a safe space to learn and progress after school ends.

Brian Nudelman, an English professor at Parkland, is the organizer of the homework club.

“The kids that we work with at Garden Hills are at least a grade level below where they’re supposed to be,” Nudelman said. “Sometimes two or three grade levels.”

He emphasizes the importance of volunteers in solving the problem Garden Hills Elementary has with literacy.

“With a college student reading books with the students, talking about them, re-reading them, we found it helps with the Garden Hills students’ literacy,” Nudelman said.

He goes on to explain the process of pairing Parkland

and College Hills students and what is involved with the program.

“Teachers from Garden Hills recommend students who they feel would benefit from the program,” after which the selected students, who range from 3rd to 5th grade, spend an hour or two every week with their Parkland mentors. Many students get very comfortable with their mentors and begin “look[ing] forward” to the club meetings, partially because of this individual attention.

“Parkland students work one on one with the Garden Hill students,” explains Nudelman.

The club is convenient for Parkland students as well, with Garden Hills Elementary School being less than two miles away from the Parkland campus.

“It’s an easy way for Parkland students to do some volunteering: it’s geographically close, and a pretty well organized program,” Nudelman said. “It is a true collaboration between the schools.”

Parkland students do not have to be in education classes to volunteer; students from all study programs are invited to enlist in the program.

“Students in education classes, occupational therapy, media advertising, a variety of classes are encouraged to volunteer,” Nudelman said.

Nudelman started the club in 2007 with Lauren Smith, the community outreach coordinator, after simply deciding, “let’s have an after-school program,” he said.

The Homework Club meets twice a week, every Monday and Wednesday from 3–4 p.m.. Volunteers are encouraged to come twice a week, but are only required to commit once a week.

It works on a very organized, strict schedule to maximize the amount of time spent helping Garden Hills students. The school dismisses at 3 p.m., after which the students meet at the club where they begin with 15 minutes of “mindfulness,” which Nudelman describes as a time after the long school day where “both tutors, and the kids, depressurize for a little bit.”

The club then moves on to the reading, which is specifically structured to help the students. For 30-minutes Parkland volunteers read aloud to the Garden Hills student, before switching roles and talking about it. The last part of the day involves



Homework Club Logo

the volunteer helping the Garden Hills student with any homework they have.

Nudelman looks forward to more volunteers this year and encourages everyone in his classes to join.

All is needed of the volunteers is “commitment,” Nudelman says.

Nudelman says he needs volunteers that can uphold the once a week attendance requirement. Students must

also pass a background check through the elementary school that can take up to a few weeks to process.

To get involved contact Brian Nudelman at bnudelman@parkland.edu or visit the table at the volunteer fair to learn more about the Homework Club. The fair will be held at the Student Union on Wednesday, Feb. 1 from 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Michigan says 38 underperforming public schools could close

David Eggert
Associated Press
Corey Williams
Associated Press

LANSGING, Mich. (AP) — Michigan announced Friday that it plans to close up to 38 underperforming schools in Detroit and other urban communities, potentially affecting 18,000 students and marking the first time that the state could close traditional public schools explicitly for academic reasons.

Despite the announcement, some schools likely will remain open. State officials next will determine whether a closure would be an “unreasonable hardship” for children with no better schools to attend. Lawsuits challenging any closures also are likely.

The announcement came in conjunction with the release of Michigan’s school rankings, which are based on standardized test results, students’ improvement over time and the gap between the best and worst pupils. Michigan law says the state can close schools that have been in the bottom 5 percent for at least three consecutive years if other forms of state intervention have not worked.

State-ordered closings appear to be rare nationally. Texas has closed entire school districts for failing to meet attendance and other



Photo by Paul Sancya | AP Photo

In this Dec. 9, 2016 file photo, Education Secretary-designate Betsy DeVos speaks in Grand Rapids, Mich. DeVos, Trump’s choice for education secretary, has spent over two decades advocating for school choice programs, which give students and parents an alternative to traditional public school education. Her confirmation hearing was scheduled for Jan. 17.

standards. Other cities such as Detroit and Chicago have closed several schools at a time to address falling enrollment, sparking protests for safety and other reasons.

Fewer than half of states have school accountability systems that allow for closures and the option “has been used infrequently by states,” said Jennifer

Thomsen with the Education Commission of the States. “It seems to happen more at the individual district level.”

Twenty-five of the schools targeted for closure are in Detroit, a predominantly black city with the worst academically performing school district of its size in the U.S. The rest are in cities such as Kalamazoo and Saginaw.

The plan drew sharp criticism from teachers’ groups.

“Simply closing schools and upending the lives of students won’t fix any problems if the root causes are adequately addressed,” said Steven Cook, president of the Michigan Education Association, the state’s largest teachers’ union.

The move follows attempts by Republican Gov. Rick Snyder to use state law to exert near-total state financial control of some cities, resulting in successfully guiding Detroit through bankruptcy but also the man-made Flint water disaster.

In 2015, Snyder took over the office charged with turning around the lowest-performing schools by transferring its functions to a department that reports to him instead of the elected state Board of Education. He cited unsatisfactory progress and said no schools in the bottom 5 percent had been placed in a state turnaround district as authorized under a 2009 law.

The law lets the state impose one of four intervention models, including closure, if a school’s “redesign” plan is not working. Last week, a GOP state senator introduced legislation to repeal the intervention law, calling it defective and in need of a fix now that state powers are

being used more aggressively.

In deciding which schools will actually close, state officials in the coming weeks will look at whether there are nearby schools that rank higher academically and could handle additional enrollment.

“Our goal is to make sure that every kid in the state of Michigan has access to a quality education so they have the skills necessary for a high-wage job, a career or college. That’s the only way really to end multi-generational poverty for a large majority of the children in the schools that we’re serving,” said Natasha Baker, the state’s school reform officer.

The Education Achievement Authority, the state-run entity that was intended as a turnaround district for Detroit’s lowest-performing schools when Snyder created it in 2011, said it was disappointed to see eight of its 14 schools on the list for possible closure. Sixteen schools on the list are in the Detroit Public Schools Community District, while another is a separate charter school in Detroit.

“Today’s public announcement comes without input from districts, educators or community. This should make us all question the validity of this action,” said Education Achievement

SEE **SCHOOLS** PAGE 4

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Fact or Fiction

FICTION: While the giant tortoise does have such an impressive lifespan, the Greenland shark beats its record with a lifespan of over 400 years.

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COMMUNITY

“Moving Forward” with Parkland’s Black History Month

Peter Floess
Staff Writer

During the month of February 2017, the theme of Black History Month at Parkland will be “Moving Forward.”

“For African Americans,” says Marietta Turner, the Dean of Students, Black History Month “offers opportunities for more awareness of achievements that create pride in our history and culture, as well as, topical information which keeps us ‘Moving Forward’ which is this year’s theme.”

The Black History Month Committee thought the theme was “appropriate because of some of the events that have happened in our country” in 2016, says committee chair Nick Sanders.

“The killing of unarmed black men, the killing of police officers by civilians, a very divisive presidential election” and Obama leaving office are some examples Sanders gives.

Below are some of the events that will take place at Parkland during the month.

On Feb. 1, from noon until 1 p.m., Turner will do a presentation on “Mindfulness in a Busy Life” in room U140.

“Stress is a common component of life and how one handles it can impact a person’s emotional, mental and physical health,” Turner says. “Research has talked about stress factors from life; including work, family and school causing higher rates of high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity and strokes for African Americans compared to other races and ethnicities.”

On Feb. 7 from 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m. in the College Center,

there will be an “AIDS Awareness Information Table.”

According to the Parkland website, the table “will help raise awareness on campus about the impact of HIV/AIDS in the African American community, promote HIV testing, and encourage treatment for those with HIV/AIDS.”

On Feb. 8 and 22 in room U140 at 1 p.m., Counselor Donna Tanner-Harold will host a workshop on “Black Male/Female Relationships.”

“My goal for the students who attend the workshop,” says Tanner-Harold, “is to gain an understanding of recognizing and developing healthy, respectful, and caring relationships.”

On Feb. 9 at noon in U140, the department chair of the Social Sciences and Human Services, Joseph Walwik, will give a lecture on “Little Rock before the Nine.”

Walwik will explore the educational and socioeconomic reasons behind the nine African American high schoolers’ decision to try to integrate the all-white Little Rock Central High School in September 1957.

On Feb. 13 at noon in room U140, Sanders will give a lecture on “Light vs. Dark: The Real Divide in the Black Community.”

The Parkland website says this lecture “will examine the deep divide in the African American community about skin complexion and how lighter and darker skin complexions are perceived by mainstream society.”

On Feb. 16 at 11:30 a.m. in room D116, humanities instructor Steven Rutledge will deliver a lecture on “A

White Man’s Experience Reading the Autobiography of Malcolm X.”

“My talk is basically my personal story of encountering Mr. X through reading a book he closely worked with Alex Haley to create, titled ‘The Autobiography of Malcolm X,’” says Rutledge.

“Sometimes the book gave me a headache, sometimes anger, sometimes profound guilt, sometimes admiration, and sometimes even hope. Some of his foundational beliefs about white people were downright poisonous—ideas he himself later repudiated. Yet, how could a book that contains poison be so good for my soul? That’s what I have been trying to put into words,” Rutledge says.

On Feb. 16 at 1:15 p.m. in Harold and Jean Miner Theatre, the artist Alicia Henry will hold a lecture. Henry’s art exhibition “Home: Works by Alicia Henry,” will be in the Giertz Gallery Feb. 13–March 28 as well. On Feb. 16 at 5 p.m. there is a reception for the exhibition with a gallery talk.

On Feb. 17 at 11:30 a.m., in the Student Union cafeteria, C&C Kitchen of Rantoul will cater a luncheon. They will be servicing a meal and dessert for a cost of \$10.

On Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. in M128, volunteers will help the Wesley Food Pantry at Parkland repackage rice.

On Feb. 21 at noon in room C118, there is event called “Black Lives Matter: Mainstream Media v. Reality.”

Members of Black Lives Matter Network’s midwest chapters will talk about principled resistance, political education, and community building.

On Feb. 27 at 11:30 a.m.



Photo by Tae-Gyun Kim | AP Photo

In this Aug. 26, 2016 photo, Loretta Augustine-Herron holds a photo that shows her with President Barack Obama when they were working as community organizers in Altgeld Gardens, a public housing project on Chicago’s far South Side. For many black Americans, it’s not so much what policies Obama proposed but his mere presence in the Oval Office that has mattered most. Augustine-Herron says, “If he never did anything else for African-Americans, just the fact that he occupies the White House, it lets us see ourselves in a different light. ... We see a chance for us to fit into the United States society in a way we’ve never fit in. Just knowing that opportunity is not everybody else’s, it’s OURS, too. ... The sky is the limit. And it was never that feeling before.”

in U140, the Student Life Wellness Coordinator, Sara Maxwell, will host a lecture called “Stop Lying, Doc! The Relationship of Medical Professionals and African Americans.”

The lecture will explore the mistrust between African Americans and medical professionals and where this mistrust “possibly originates and how it affects the relationship between the African American community and overall health outcomes,” says Maxwell.

This lecture is also “about empowering the African

American community to be health advocates and to encourage each other to go to the doctor for routine physicals and to seek healthcare from a professional when needed,” says Maxwell.

Sanders hopes all Parkland students attend Black History Month Events, so they can “understand that black people have a lot to be happy about but” there are still many ways the community can move forward. More information about these events can be found on the Parkland homepage.

FROM PAGE 1

KAZAM!

resources available to him, like his faculty advisor Jacki Lowenstein,” Bean said.

While this play is going to entertain its audience, it has also gives students great learning experiences.

“[The] great thing about having a community theater is learning from staff members and other experienced actors,” Bean said. “Student actors will learn a lot from these interactions.”

While getting good learning experiences, students also benefit in another way, as all proceeds over the total cost of the play will be put into two scholarships: the Randall Millas Scholarship Fund and the Theater Production Award Fund.

“Part of the money goes to help with [the] theater scholarship...money is specifically targeted to help theater students learn their craft,” Bean said.

Before coming to Parkland, Bean served as a pastor. He continues to be involved with the church today.

“I started teaching here

in the fall of 2009, so I am about seven-and-a-half-years here as an instructor in the Communication Department, as well as the Theatre Department.” Bean says. “At first I wrote these little amusing murder mysteries for my churches as social events,” he said. “This is probably the 7th or 8th of these I’ve written. The character types are similar, and so are the plot devices. It’s really a farce...it just takes on the character of a melodrama.”

Bean hopes theatre-goers take away three simple things from seeing the play.

“My goal is for people to be entertained, to have laughed, and to remember how fun live theater is,” Bean said.

“Kazam!” will be performed on Feb. 9–11 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 12 at 3 p.m. in Parkland’s Second Stage. For more information or to reserve seats, go to theatre.parkland.edu/kazam.html. The theater is also reachable by email at theatre@parkland.edu or over the phone at 351-2528. Tickets are \$10 apiece, and there will be refreshments served during intermission.

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POLITICS

Trump’s ‘running war’ on the media undermines trust

David Bauder
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP)— Donald Trump’s “running war” on the media is continuing into his presidency, with statements over the weekend calling into question the extent to which information from the White House can be trusted.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer on Monday will hold his first daily press briefing, at which he could face questions about a statement Saturday night that included demonstrably false assertions about the crowd size at Trump’s inauguration and a promise by the new administration that “we’re going to hold the press accountable.”

Some Trump supporters will no doubt cheer the continued antagonism toward the media that was central to the Republican’s campaign for president. Now the stakes are higher.

Press secretaries have been lied to by their bosses, or misled reporters through the omission of information, but veteran journalist Dan Rather said Sunday it was the first time he could recall false material being delivered in this way.

“I hope that people will stop, pull back for what we in television call a wide shot and see what is happening,” Rather said. “This is a deliberate propaganda campaign.”

Spicer, a longtime Republican operative who most recently was the spokesman for the Republican



Photo by Andrew Harnik | AP Photo
President Donald Trump, accompanied by CIA Director-designate Mike Pompeo, left, waits to speak at the Central Intelligence Agency in Langley, Va., Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017.

National Committee and also worked for President George W. Bush, is known for fighting tenaciously for his employers. His briefing on Saturday followed a Trump appearance at the CIA where the president criticized the media for reporting his criticisms of the intelligence community. He also took exception to stories saying the crowd for Friday’s inauguration was smaller than those for predecessor Barack Obama. Trump declared that journalists are “the most dishonest human beings on Earth,” saying “I have a running war with the media.”

Spicer made two unprovable statements in his briefing: that photographs of the audience at Trump’s inaugural were intentionally framed to minimize the appearance of support, and that Trump drew the largest audience ever to witness an

inauguration.

But he also made statements that were quickly disproven: that the Washington Metro system recorded more riders on the day of Trump’s inaugural than when Obama was sworn in for his second term, that Friday was the first time that white floor covering was used on the Washington Mall, amplifying empty spaces, and that it was the first time spectators were required to pass through magnetometers to enter the Mall.

Spicer’s briefing, during which he did not take questions from reporters, was televised live on Fox News Channel and MSNBC. CNN did not air the session but showed highlights later.

Trump’s first press conference after he was elected, held on Jan. 11, also took aim at the media. Coming hours after news reports revealed intelligence officials had presented Trump with

unsubstantiated and salacious allegations regarding his relationship to Russia, Trump and his team condemned news organizations that disclosed details, calling out CNN and BuzzFeed as “disgraceful” and refusing to take questions from a CNN reporter.

Confronted by “Meet the Press” host Chuck Todd on Sunday with “falsehoods” stated by Spicer, Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway called them “alternative facts.” She accused Todd of laughing at her and said he symbolizes how Trump has been treated by the media.

One person who has been in Spicer’s position, former White House press secretary Ari Fleischer, said it seemed clear to him that Spicer was acting on orders from his boss. Press secretaries have to walk a fine line between reflecting the thinking and wishes of the president while trying to help the people covering him do their jobs, said Fleischer, who, like Spicer, worked for George W. Bush.

Fleischer said he never knowingly delivered false information to the press while at the White House.

“You can’t do that,” he said. “It will shorten your career.”

When Spicer faces the press on Monday, he needs to elaborate on his argument, “take the hard questions and demonstrate reasonableness,” Fleischer said.

The conservative website Breitbart.com led its site with an article headlined: “White House press secretary Sean Spicer blasts

media’s ‘deliberately false reporting.’” The article said that Spicer’s “criticism of the media’s fake news reporting resulted in a media meltdown on social media.”

It’s a crucial time for Spicer’s reputation. A press secretary whose word can’t be trusted has no value to anyone, said Terence Hunt, a longtime White House correspondent and editor for The Associated Press who recently retired.

“You can’t tell lies in the White House,” Hunt said. “Somebody will smoke you out, on issues large and small. The president’s integrity and credibility are at stake in everything you say, so be super careful.”

If the White House can’t be trusted to tell the truth on a relatively trivial matter like crowd size, the public will wonder about the reliability of information on important topics like terrorism or the nuclear capabilities of North Korea, said Ben Mullin, a managing editor at the Poynter Institute who does a podcast on the relationship between Trump and the press.

Rather, a former CBS anchor who famously tangled with the Nixon White House during the Watergate era, said the situation saddened him.

“I don’t think the American people as a whole, whether they supported Donald Trump or not, want a situation where the press secretary to the president comes out and knowingly tells a lie,” he said.

FROM PAGE 2

SCHOOLS

Authority Chancellor Veronica Conforme.

She and Chris Wigent, executive director of the Michigan Association of School Administrators, said the state used flawed data. State assessments have changed every year since the 2014-15 academic year, “so there is no consistent data upon which to base these closings,” Wigent said.

Until Friday, the state had only once before ordered school closings for academic reasons. Those closures in 2010 and 2011 involved two charter schools, which

are independent public schools that are especially prevalent in Detroit. Other charters have been closed by universities and others who run them.

The state’s charter school group, the Michigan Association of Public School Academies, backed Friday’s announcement.

“Nobody likes to see a school close, but we support the state taking this responsibility seriously,” said Dan Quisenberry, president of the group. “Our kids deserve better.”

Williams reported from Detroit. Associated Press writers Will Weissert in Austin, Texas, and Don Babwin in Chicago contributed to this report.

FROM PAGE 1

ANNIVERSARY

tutors must maintain a certain level of excellence in any subjects they teach, making GPA very important. Positions are often only

offered by recommendations.

For students interested in taking advantage of D120, the Center for Academic Success is open Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Students can also call CAS at 217-353-2005 for more information.



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